

Friday, April 15, 1938

Land acquisitions may slow Route A

By SONNI SCHEWINN

Wasatch County Correspondent
HEBER CITY — The Utah Department of Transportation concerned that the right-of-way acquisitions for Route A may not be completed in time for construction to begin next summer.

Wasatch County Attorney Sve Hansen told the committee last week that he is optimistic about negotiations with the department to get help acquiring the properties. Route A will be the new

Kamas-to-Heber connection when the present road is closed for Jordanelle dam construction.

The county has objected to being assigned the responsibility of obtaining the land for the highway. Hansen said his responsibilities for the county are a full-time job and, since the Bureau of Reclamation acquired the right-of-ways for the Jordanelle Reservoir, some of which were from some of the same properties needed for Route A, it doesn't make sense

for the county to take over at this point.

He has said the Utah Department of Transportation has a staff that specializes in acquiring right-of-ways for highways, but the Bureau took that responsibility for both Route C and the relocation of U.S. 40.

Commissioner Larry Duke reported that he had discussed with Kirt Carpenter, chief of the Provo office of the Bureau of Reclamation, the possibility of the Bureau acquiring the

properties rather than insisting the county do it. "I said, 'We need some legal help. We've just got one county attorney and you've got a whole staff of people.' And he was quite positive," he said.

The county had hoped that some of the landowners would donate right of ways because the highway will enhance future developments in the area. However, Mr. Hansen reported he was not optimistic that there would be any contributions, based on the responses so far. He said those who

might be considering letting their property go without charge were requesting rather extensive concessions from the county.

"Where they're getting access points and the road going through there, they'd better not hold too tough," Commissioner Pete Coleman said.

Commission Chairman Lorin Allred said he didn't think the property was worth more than \$250 an acre. "If they accept it, fine. If they don't, we'll move into rapid condemnation."